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an elongate core composed of a nickel-titanium alloy and including a length and a distal portion;

a unitary coil composed of a second material and that surrounds a substantial portion of the length of the core and extends distal of the distal portion of the core; and

a tip composed of a polymeric material and extending from a distal end of the coil.

32. (Amended) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the tip includes a radio-opaque material.

33. (Amended) The guide wire of claim 22 wherein the coil comprises a pitch that varies at least once along the length of the core.

41. (Amended) A guide wire comprising:

a core including a length and a distal portion;

a unitary coil that surrounds a substantial portion of the length of the core and extends distal of the distal portion of the core; and

a tip composed of a polymeric material and extending from a distal end of the coil.

48. (Amended) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the tip comprises a radio-opaque material.

49. (Amended) The guide wire of claim 41 wherein the coil comprises a pitch that varies at least once along the length of the core.

REMARKS

In the Amendment and Response of May 14, 2001, Applicants requested an official filing receipt, which had not been received from the Patent Office. Applicants note that an official filing receipt was not forwarded with the instant Office Action, and accordingly renew their request for the filing receipt.

Applicants hereby amend claims 22, 32, 33, 41, 48, and 49, and cancel claims 31 and 47 without prejudice to Applicants' right to pursue these claims in this or a related case. Claims 22-26, 28-30, 32-46, and 48-56 are now pending. Claims 22 and 41 are the only two pending independent claims. Applicants submit that the amended claims do not introduce new matter, and that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Support for the amendments can be